

SHOOTS A SHEEPHERDER.**A Donn Ana County Deputy Makes a Mistake.****Ben Williams, Formerly of Silver City, Shoots the Wrong Man.**

Last Wednesday, Deputy Sheriff Ben Williams went up to the little village of Colorado, says the Independent Democrat, with a warrant for Refugio Silva, who killed a section foreman on the railroad five or six years ago and has been a fugitive ever since. Williams had information that Silva was in a sheep camp near Colorado and that he was heavily armed and would undoubtedly resist arrest. Not knowing the man by sight, Williams took Pedro Serna along to identify him, Serna being well acquainted with Silva. The result of the expedition was that Williams made a mistake and killed a shepherd named Jose de la Luz Bustillos.

The circumstances, as related by Williams, are as follows: Williams and Serna approached the sheep camp and saw a man and a boy there. The man had a rifle standing close to his hand. The officers remained concealed for some time, and presently the boy went away. After considerable time had elapsed, the man moved away from his rifle and took off his cartridge belt. Williams and Serna crept nearer, and when within 60 yards of the man stepped into view and called to him, saying that they were officers and wanted to talk to him. The man replied that he was not armed and would come to them. Williams says he did not know at that time whether the man was Silva or not and that Serna was not sure. He also declares that the man closely resembled the described appearance of Silva, but it is generally reported by the residents of Colorado that the shepherd did not resemble Silva in height, bulk or any other particular.

Instead of approaching the officers, the shepherd picked up his cartridge belt and ran toward his rifle. Williams says he called to him twice to stop, assuring him that he should not be hurt, but that if he did not stop, he, Williams, would shoot. The man did not stop and Williams shot him in the back and killed him. He fell about ten yards from where the rifle was standing. The officers then discovered that the man was not Silva. They rolled him up in a blanket, took his rifle and went away.

Williams and Serna went to Rincon, reported the affair, gave themselves up and were placed under bonds. Meanwhile the boy returned to camp, found the body and gave an alarm, and a posse began searching for the men who killed Bustillos, knowing nothing of the presence of deputy sheriffs in that part of the country.

Coroner Jaramillo held an inquest at

Colorado and heard the story told by Williams and Serna. The jury found that the herder was murdered by the officers and declared that the murder was premeditated and willful. Williams gave new bonds to Sheriff Lohman, who had hastened to Colorado as soon as he heard that his deputy had killed a man.

Persons who knew the herder say that he was "locoed" and not of average intelligence, and that he undoubtedly was alarmed when he saw the armed officers confronting him and did not understand that they meant him no harm. He very naturally went to get his rifle in order to defend himself against the unknown men.

Williams, on the other hand, says he had reason to suppose that the man was associated with Silva, and that he would fight if he should get hold of his rifle. He was afraid that the man would get behind a tree and have the advantage of position, and so he killed him before he was within ten yards of the weapon.

The Horses Ran Away.

Last Saturday evening as D. R. Brownell, with a passenger from Mogollon, was coming down a hill about three and a half miles out of town, one of the wheels of the vehicle struck a stump, the horses became frightened and ran away. Mr. Brownell was thrown out of the buggy and was bruised up considerably. The rig was badly broken up.

Mr. Brownell discovered that he had lost his pocketbook containing about \$300 in currency and about \$500 in checks and valuable papers and early on Sunday morning George Norton, accompanied by the man who rode in with Mr. Brownell, went out to the scene of the runaway and found the missing pocketbook and brought it in. Mr. Brownell's injuries were not so severe that he was prevented from starting east on the following morning after the accident.

There are 466 voters registered in this precinct this year against 542 two years ago. The falling off is not so great as it was expected it would be two weeks ago. There will probably be about 400 votes cast here at the election next Tuesday.

DESTROYED BY FIRE.**Store and Lodge Rooms at Georgetown Go Up In Smoke.**

Last Wednesday evening the store occupied by John C. Berry at Georgetown was destroyed by fire. The second floor of the building was occupied by Mimbres lodge, A. F. & A. M., and the Georgetown chapter of the order of the Eastern Star.

Mr. Berry, who is one of the leading populists of the town, was away at the time of the fire attending a political meeting. The store was closed as usual, but about 11 o'clock it was discovered to be on fire. The night was still which, considering the fact that a supply of water was not at hand to fight the flames, undoubtedly saved the town from destruction.

The building burned rapidly and everything in the second story of the building was destroyed, including all the furnishings of the lodge rooms, regalia and an organ. The lurid light of the flames was seen for miles and was noticed by Mr. Berry who hastened home to arrive only in time to see the walls of the building fall.

The building was erected a number of years ago and has been occupied as a store by several different firms. Payne, Washington & Co. did a flourishing business there for several years and the place was occupied later by John A. Deemer.

The building was owned jointly by John C. Berry and Mimbres lodge. The exact amount of the loss has not been ascertained but it is about covered by insurance.

Case Dismissed.

The New Mexican of last Friday printed the following item:

The preliminary hearing of the case against Dr. S. G. Spann, who was arrested yesterday on the charge of practicing medicine without complying with the territorial laws was concluded before Justice of the Peace Armijo today. The justice dismissed the case.

During the past few days there has been considerable rain in the Mogollons, but not enough has fallen yet to make the water supply sufficient to run the mills.

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